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KIM MARSHALL
MANAGER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND
SALES

AUSTRALIA

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Invention Title **Digital reference assembly for use with**
Vehicle Gauging Apparatus.

The invention is described in the following statement:

The present invention relates generally to the determination of the

relative alignment of structural members.

The invention has been developed primarily for use in the automotive...

industry in connection with the alignment and repair of damaged vehicle

and will be described hereinafter with reference to this application.

However, it will be appreciated that the invention is not limited

to this particular field of use.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION Numerous devices are known for providing...

an indication of the relative misalignment of structural members and

body panels, to assist in the repair of damaged motor vehicles.

This invention relates to improved methods and equipment for providing

3-dimensional measurements of collision-damaged vehicles. The

measuring method is to fit the invention onto existing trammel bars.

e.g. US Patent 5507.101 and is used in a similiar method of measurement with the exception that the LCD display at the tramel sliding tape box section can be scrolled over to show each individual measurement required. This is a very desirable

5 advantage to the operator as after each individual check a transmit button transfers the measurement taken to the computer for compiling a report. Insurance companies are now requesting some quality assurance method of confirming the damage and rectification and signing off on the report presented.

10 The present invention is directed to a method of providing 3D measurements of vehicles to establish any variation to data sheet specifications provided by the manufacturer or by specialist providers.

15 According to the invention two digital tapes and an electronic black box are attached to a tramel which is usually slieably and removably fitted to a datum bar mounted transversly across the vehicle body at selected data specification positions. The vehicle does not have to be level for 3D measurements to proceed.

20 All components can be made from any suitable material such as metal or moulded plastics.

25 Although the invention has been described with reference to specific examples, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the invention may be embodied in many other forms. e.g. the digital measurements may be by laser read out or potentiometer, punched holes in tape, bar code reading or forms of sound providing increment measurements that can be transmitted by RS232 or similiar cable. In another example the information can be transmitted by radio or infra red signal to the computer. In another form the tramel could be geared with slotted teeth or cable to provide the drive for potentiometer or similiar. In another form the invention could be used as a hand held tramel using one or more digital tapes

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transmitting to a computer.

To assist with understanding the invention reference will now be made to the accompanying drawing which shows one example of the invention.

Drawings defining the invention are as follows;

5 Fig. 1 Shows one example of the vehicle alignment digital gauging device according to this invention.

10 Fig. 1-1 Shows example of digital measuring tape with RS232 facility.

Fig. 1-2 Shows example of electronic black box which receives and transmits information displays on the LCD display.

15 Fig. 1-3 Shows example of mounting bracket for attachment to tramel Fig. 1-10

Fig. 1-4 Shows example of knurled locking knob for attachment of assembly to Fig 1-10

Fig. 1-5 Shows example of locking knurled knob and bolt for attachment to Fig. 1-6

15 Fig 1-6 Shows example of slide or tramel Fig 1-10

Fig.1-7 Shows example of tape blade clip on Fig 1-1 tape

Fig 1-8 Shows example of control switch on Fig 1-1

Fig 1-10 Shows example of tramel bar.

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CLAIMS:

1. A digital reference assembly adapted for operative engagement to said measuring tramel by locking knob. The said digital tapes have a removably mounted electronic black box with LCD display mounted below one of the said digital tapes and each

5 of the said digital tapes have electronic connection to the said black box for data collection to a computer for reference to specifications displayed on the said LCD to provide comparative indication of misalignment of the vehicle.

2. The apparatus according to Claim 1 with a digital tape and electronic black box mounted to a tramel and the said tramel moveably attached to a dutum bar. The assembly when combined with tramel provides 3D measuring

10 3. An apparatus according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the same digital tape assembly is connected to a slideably adjusted tape box of the tramel so as to provide the same movement of the said tape box on the said tramel.

15 4. An apparatus according to Claims 1.2 and 3 wherein the said electronic black box is provided with a control switch to scroll through data information contained in the said computer or the said LCD with electronic memory facility.

5. An apparatus according to Claim 1 to 4 wherein the said 20 electronic black box has a control switch to display the length measurement of the digital tape in the LCD display and compare + or - calculation to the original measurement as referred to in the said scroll facility in the said black box.

25 6. An apparatus according to Claim 1-4 wherein the said electronic black box has a control switch to transmit the + or - calculations of the data selected to the computer for the compilation of report.

7. An apparatus according to Claim 1-6 wherein the said digital tape assembly bracket is furter supported by a slideably adjustable

fitting on the said tramel and removable attached with a knurled knob screw.

8. An apparatus according to claim 1-7 wherein one of the said digital tapes measures length the end of the said digital tape blade slot is attached by a protruding clip fitted to the said tramel

swivel connecting fitting.

9. An apparatus according to claim 1-8 wherein one to the said digital tapes measures height the end of the said digital tape blade slot connects to a clip mounted on the said tramel height rod assembly. This clip is positioned to allow for easy access to measure points.

10. An apparatus according to claim 1-9 wherein the said electronic black box has an electronic connecting system to provide for RS232 cable transmission between said computer and said electronic box.

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ABSTRACT

Discloses a method and apparatus for measuring variations in vehicle bodies or frames in reference to before and after collision damage repair.

The measuring apparatus comprises 2 digital tapes with RS232

facility mounted on a suitable bracket for quick attachment to a tramel. The digital tapes are combined with an electronic black box attached to the assembly for receiving and transmitting and calculating data sheet information to and from a computer, the device is light, compact and quick to fit to the tramel assembly for providing 3D measurement for compiling vehicle damage reports. Equipment for electronically measuring of vehicles has to date been very expensive.

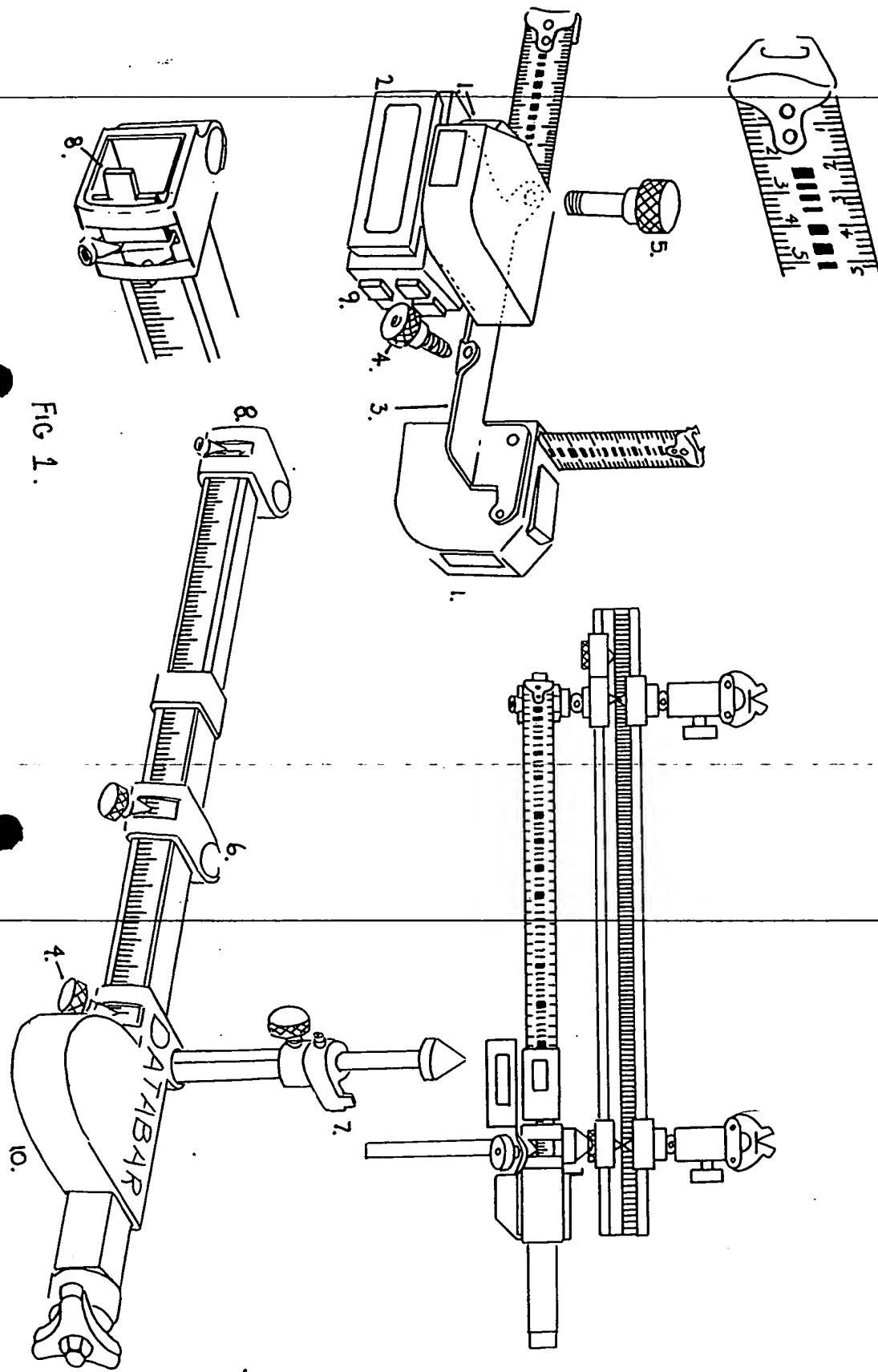
This design allows for low cost manufacture and provides measurement to 1mm.

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JAMES MASON
(Name of Applicant)
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(Date)